

USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77)

THE AVENGER

Volume 2, Issue 8

September 2011



THIS MONTH:

Swim call & steel beach picnic | CPO pinning | Dubai

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COMMAND CORNER

From the Command Master Chief



Greetings GHWB family and friends,

During the past month, we have experienced what will undoubtedly be the best memories of our deployment. We began September in the beautiful port of Dubai and spent four days enjoying the unique culture of United Arab Emirates. Our Sailors sandboarded down desert dunes, rode camels, shopped at one of the world's largest malls, and experienced a city that is known around the world for its grand architecture, including the world's tallest building. That was just the beginning.

Two weeks later, we had one of the ship's most eventful days, which began with the momentous occasion of pinning our Navy's newest Chief Petty Officers. I am extremely proud of all who contributed to building and developing 49 truly remarkable Sailors into the Chiefs' Mess to carry on the tradition of leadership that defines and develops our Navy. For family members of our newly-pinned Chief Petty Officers, know that they were challenged both physically and mentally and worked extremely hard during the induction process to become pillars of this great Navy. They learned much and they are already using that knowledge to influence our ship in a positive way.

Following the Chief Petty Officer pinning ceremony, the crew was able to enjoy a fun-filled day that kicked off with a swim call in the Arabian Sea. More than 1,200 Sailors took the 25-foot plunge from the lowered aircraft elevator. I can tell you from personal experience that it was a blast, and I know every Sailor who joined me in the water felt the same way. Not many people can say that they jumped from an aircraft carrier into an ocean 8,000 miles from home. But we can.

After drying off, we headed to the flight deck for a steel beach picnic. Your Sailors enjoyed barbecue ribs, hot dogs and hamburgers. They played football, bobbed for apples, competed in cornhole and enjoyed a

day in the sun. The crew deserved the needed relaxation and entertainment, especially after working so hard for the past few months.

It was a great time and the whole day went off without a hitch because every department pitched in to make the day special. It was a team effort from the Sailors setting up chairs and serving food, to the shipmates who stood a watch so that another could go get some chow on the flight deck.

Their teamwork was evident far before our day of fun and it continues on now as we meet the demands of this deployment. One of those demands was the recent Maintenance and Material Management (3M) Inspection that we completed on Sept. 24. The inspection was a culminating event for the ship, testing our ability to properly execute required maintenance. I'm proud to say that your Sailors showed their skill and dedication in remarkable fashion. This was our ship's first 3M Inspection and not only did we pass, we exceeded expectations. Because of your Sailors' hard work, this ship will continue to safely carry our Nation's flag around the world with pride.

As we look forward, I ask that you continue to encourage your Sailors in these next few months. We are past the halfway point but there is still work to be done in support of our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. They depend on us and we are here to help because we are Freedom at Work. +

Sincerely,

CMDCM(SW/AW) Dave Colton
Command Master Chief

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM SEPTEMBER:

- Successful port visit to Dubai
- Pinned 49 new Chief Petty Officers
- Conducted the ship's first swim call and steel beach picnic
- Successfully passed the ship's first Maintenance and Material Management (3M) Inspection
- Administered 1,546 E4-E6 Navy-wide Advancement Exams



On the cover:

Newly-pinned Chief Petty Officers receive applause during the pinning ceremony held in the ship's hangar bay Sept. 16.
Photo by MCSN Kevin Steinberg.

NEVER FOR GRANTED

Ten years ago, on Sept. 11, 2001, a tragedy occurred on American soil that stunned the nation. Almost 3,000 American citizens lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks that struck New York City, Washington D.C., and a group of passengers flying above Pennsylvania. The attack shocked the American people, leaving them with images and stories they will never forget.

NEVER FORGOTTEN

The Navy continues to stand the watch worldwide. As of Sept. 7, 2011, 14 attack submarines and 121 ships are on deployment. Of the many Americans who joined after 9/11, 9,355 officers and 197,805 enlisted remain in the ranks, for a total of 217,140 still serving today.

"I was on the USS Theodore Roosevelt and I got to lower the flag to half-mast that day."

— Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling)
1st Class (AW/SW) Gregory Piazza

"I had just gotten to my first ship and they locked down the whole base."

— Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW)
Brodereck Mills

"My first reaction was shock... I couldn't believe what I saw."

— Logistics Specialist 1st Class (AW/SW)
Rodney Moats

"I didn't believe it at first. I thought it was an accident."

— Aviation Ordnanceman Airman (AW) Jose Ramirez

REMEMBERING

9 / 11

We Will Not Falter

On Sept. 11, 2001, Logistics Specialist 1st Class (AW/SW) Rodney Moats was a 25-year-old Aviation Storekeeper 2nd Class visiting his family in Virginia Beach, Va. On his way to Oceana, Va., to join Strike Fighter Squadron (VF) 103, attached to USS George Washington (CVN 73), he was involved in a car accident. His father-in-law brought him home to recover and when he turned on the news, he saw the devastation of one tower already struck by a plane. His first thought was that a small plane had malfunctioned and it was an accident. Several minutes later he witnessed another plane hit the second tower.

“My first reaction was shock,” said Moats, assigned to USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Supply Department. “I couldn’t believe what I saw.”

Immediately, Moats tried to head back to Paxutant River, Md., where he was previously stationed, to find that the bases were being closed off. He contacted his previous chain of command to update them on where he was and then continued on to Oceana.

He deployed with VF-103 in 2002 to the Arabian Gulf.

“I felt like every other American did at that time,” said Moats. “I was angry and, honestly, I wanted payback.”

We Will Not Fear

Aviation Ordnanceman Airman (AW) Jose Ramirez got out of his bed in El Paso, Texas, like any other school day on the morning of the attacks. He was 12 years old and going to a middle school that required him to wear a uniform. Every morning his family watched the news while Ramirez got ready for his day. He glanced at the TV as the first plane struck World Trade Center Tower One. He stopped in his tracks with his eyes fixed on the screen.

“I didn’t believe it at first,” said Ramirez, assigned to George H.W. Bush Weapons Department. “Even after the second one hit, I thought it had to be an accident.”

Ramirez went to school thinking that it was a terrible accident. He and the rest of his class were informed that America had been attacked by terrorists. His teachers and fellow students kept their eyes on the TV throughout the day.

“I didn’t even know that terrorists existed before 9/11,” said Ramirez. “That one incident had so many repercussions. I don’t think we’d be over here right now if it wasn’t for that day.”

During an operational deployment in support of troops in the Middle East, Sailors aboard USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) reflect upon where they were in their lives one decade ago.

We Will Not Forget

Chief Religious Programs Specialist (SW/AW/FMF) David Aguirre of the Command Religious Ministries Department is what he calls a “9/11 Chief.” Aguirre was pinned as a Chief Petty Officer five days after the 9/11 attacks.

He was stationed on board USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3) in San Diego. While walking across the mess decks, Aguirre was stopped by the sight of a burning building on the TV – the first tower. One by one, the Sailors of Belleau Wood were halted by the gruesome sight as they filtered into the mess hall. Silent disbelief consumed the Sailors as they watched in awe.

The ship got underway immediately. The crew was unsure of what to expect.

“We didn’t know if there were going to be more attacks,” said Aguirre. “We didn’t know if we were coming back.”

Aguirre and the rest of the Chief Petty Officer Selects were pinned in the Chiefs’ Mess while the ship was underway, instead of back home like they had hoped. However, under the circumstances, he discovered a renewed faith in himself and his country.

“It makes you think about what’s important,” said Aguirre. “Certainly, family and our freedom are right there at the top.”

We Will Not Fail

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (AW) Brenna Wheatley was 18 years old working as a library aide in her second period class in the city of Orange, Texas, on the morning of the attacks. One of the librarians called her into the conference room to show her the tragic event that was being looped on the news channel. Wheatley watched as the first and second planes crashed into both towers. She began to cry as she witnessed scenes from the crash at the Pentagon and the plane crash in Pennsylvania.

“I didn’t have any friends in New York,” said Wheatley, assigned to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 70. “But imagining the pain and suffering all those people were going through killed me inside.”

However, she remembers that the tragedy brought people together to overcome the devastation.

“People came from all around to help clean up or to provide support to someone who lost loved ones,” said Wheatley. “Seeing all of that on the news made me proud.”

The events on 9/11 and her brother’s military service influenced Wheatley to join the Navy in 2002.

Sailors aboard USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) enjoyed a swim call and steel beach picnic in the Arabian Sea, Sept. 16.

More than 1,200 Sailors decided to take the 25-foot plunge into the calm 84 degree water below, and later everybody assembled on the ship's flight deck for carnival-style games and barbecue.

"I think it's a great way for the Sailors to come out, get to know each other, and grow as a unit," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 3rd Class (AW/SW) Jamire Wimberly. "It's also a great opportunity to get out of the shop and relax for a day."

Sailors who chose to participate in the swim call jumped from the edge of a lowered aircraft elevator into the Arabian Sea, where search and rescue swimmers stood watch to ensure a safe journey back to the ship's stern dock.

"You keep falling and falling, expecting to hit the water, and it feels like forever before it actually happens," said Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class (AW) Thomas Day. "It was exhilarating!"

Following swim call, Sailors took over the ship's flight deck for a steel beach picnic. Sailors launched golf balls into a net, played

games like corn hole, hacky sack, and football, and competed for prizes in one of several competitions. While they relaxed, Sailors had their choice of ribs, hot dogs and hamburgers, which were prepared on grills that lined the area of the flight deck usually reserved for launching and recovering F/A-18 Hornets.

"This is the first time I've done something like this and it's good to see the crew improve their morale," said Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (AW/SW) Christopher Morrison.

Aviation Electrician's Mate Airman Matthew Bartley thought the barbecue was the best food during this deployment.

"It's not exactly like home," said Bartley. "But it's very close."

The ship's Junior Enlisted Association sponsored an apple-bobbing competition and a pie-eating contest where Sailors competed for prizes, including a new computer.

"An event like this brings the whole crew closer together," said Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/AW) Timora Mitchell. "It just makes everyone happy. Swim call in the morning and steel beach picnic in the afternoon – the day can't get any better than that!" +



Swim Call and Steel Beach Picnic

Story and layout by
MCSN(SW) Greg Wilhelmi
Photo by
MC3(SW) Kasey Krall

1,200 Sailors, a 25-foot drop,
barbecue, games, and an un-
forgettable day.

Swim Call

Layout by MC2(SW) Timothy Walter



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1. Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Rex Nelson leaps off the edge of a lowered aircraft elevator during swim call. Photo by MC2(SW/AW) Nicholas Hall.
2. Commanding Officer Capt. Brian E. Luther, left, talks with Sailors during swim call. Photo by MCSN(SW) Greg Wilhelmi.
3. Sailors line up on the aircraft elevator for swim call. Photo by MC3 Billy Ho.
4. Sailors swim to the stern dock. Photo by MC3 Billy Ho.
5. Sailors leap off the lowered aircraft elevator. Photo by MCSN(SW) Greg Wilhelmi.
6. Sailors reach the water. Photo by MC2(SW/AW) Nicholas Hall.

Steel Beach Picnic

1. Sailors stand in line for barbecue. Photo by MC3 Billy Ho.
2. Sailors enjoy food and music on the flight deck. Photo by MCSN Cecelia Engrums.
3. Operations Specialist 1st Class (SW) David Flores plays music for Sailors. Photo by MCSN(SW) Jessica Echerri.
4. Sailors play guitar during the steel beach picnic. Photo by MC1(SW/AW) Joseph R. Vincent.
5. Sailors play hacky sack on the flight deck. Photo by MC1(SW/AW) Joseph R. Vincent.
6. Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (AW/SW) Jesse D. Eldridge, left, and Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (AW/SW) Jason B. Van Patten grill lamb chops and hamburgers on the flight deck during a steel beach picnic. Photo by MC2(SW/AW) Jennifer Jaqua.



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49 NEW CHIEFS

THE CPO PINNING CEREMONY



"I'm extremely grateful to serve with so many talented leaders, and I look forward to watching you forge the living links of tradition between the Chiefs of yesterday and the Chiefs of today."

— Capt. Brian E. Luther
Commanding Officer

Chief selects stand in ranks before being pinned during the ceremony in the hangar bay Sept. 16. Photo illustration by MCSN Kevin Steinberg.

CPO PINNING

Story and layout by MCSN(SW) Michael Smevog



Chief selects march in formation during the ceremony. Photo by MCSN Kevin Steinberg.

USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) held a pinning ceremony for 49 new Chief Petty Officers (CPO) assigned to the ship and embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) Eight Sept. 16.

The newest Chief Petty Officers received their golden anchors after senior deckplate leaders spoke about the significance of the insignia, the title and the responsibility of the promotion. George H.W. Bush Commanding Officer Capt. Brian E. Luther congratulated the rows of khaki-clothed Sailors who joined the Chiefs' Mess and earned the title of "The Chief."

"I'm extremely grateful to serve with so many talented leaders, and I look forward to watching you forge the living links of tradition between the Chiefs of yesterday and the Chiefs of today," said Luther in a ceremony held in the ship's hangar bay.

The ceremony followed a six-week training period known as Induction, which began Aug. 1, when

CPO advancement results were released. Each following day, senior leaders introduced CPO selects to methods that will help them effectively lead and mentor junior Sailors.

"Being a First Class and being a Chief are two completely different things," said Chief Electronics Technician (SW/AW) Joseph A. Weissman of USS George H.W. Bush Reactor Department. "During Induction, we learned the leadership skills needed to not only guide our division, but also any junior Sailor in the command when needed."

In the formal pinning ceremony, each new Chief was pinned by his or her chosen mentors. Throughout the induction period, mentors imparted CPO selects with the knowledge and lessons that they and other Chiefs have gained and learned during their years of service. The process aims to instill in each new member of the Chiefs' mess an appreciation for and a confidence in the unique position in the chain of command.

Unlike other branches of the military, promotion to the rank of E-7 in the Navy requires a Sailor to take on the dual-role of technical expert and designated leader. The title of "The Chief" carries with it a tradition of knowledge, teamwork and ability to take charge that began when the Navy first created the rank on April 1, 1893.

Newly-pinned Chief Aviation Structural Mechanic (AW/SW) Charles W. Cutlip, assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 31, said his promotion requires him to pass on the experience and understanding he has gained to the Sailors he will now mentor and lead.

"We need to set them up for success to keep the tradition and knowledge flowing," Cutlip said. "That's what being a Chief is all about – the junior Sailors."

Many of the ship's and air wing's junior Sailors attended the ceremony in the ship's hangar bay to support the Navy's newest Chief Petty Officers as they reached this career milestone. †



Chief Aviation Structural Mechanic (AW/SW) Charles W. Cutlip stands in formation after being pinned. Photo by MCSN Kevin Steinberg.



Chief Aviation Ordnanceman (AW/SW) Jessica M. Cook receives her anchors during the ceremony. Photo by MCSA(SW) Brian Read Castillo.

"That's what being a Chief is all about — the junior Sailors."
— Chief Aviation Structural Mechanic (AW/SW) Charles W. Cutlip



Sailors salute during the singing of the national anthem. Photo by MC3 Billy Ho.

Sandboarding

Photos and layout by MCSN(SW) Michael Smevog

Sailors sandboarded near Dubai, United Arab Emirates, during the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) sponsored tour "Sand Skiing and Camel Rides" Sept. 2. In addition to sandboarding, Sailors experienced a ride through the desert in 4-wheel drive vehicles, camel rides, and a chance to purchase souvenirs and eat lunch.



Kickin' Up Sand!

Photos and layout by MCSN Kevin J. Steinberg



1

1. Sailors enjoy riding through sand dunes near Dubai, United Arab Emirates, during the Sunset Safari tour sponsored by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR).
2. Cryptologic Technician (Mechanical) 1st Class (SW/AW) Jason M. Heinen and Interior Communications Electrician 2nd Class (SW) Michael Barbay ride a camel.
3. Sailors enjoy the desert scenery during the tour.
4. Sailors ride in sport utility vehicles during the tour.
5. Sailors enjoy camel rides which, for some, was a first time experience.



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FEEDING THE NAVY

What it takes to feed 4,400 Sailors

Story, photos and layout by
MCSN(SW) Greg Wilhelmi

Good Dessert In A Hurry
Makes 100 servings

Pudding _____ 42 Pounds
Marshmallows _____ A lot
How: Scoop into dish,
Top with marshmallows

Hot Dogs By The Ton
Makes at least 100 servings
Hot Dogs _____ Several
Thousand
How: Grill and serve

The galley crew aboard USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) prepares and cooks 16 to 18 thousand meals to feed nearly 5,000 Sailors every day – a task that takes seven galleys, 93 Culinary Specialists and 140 Food Service Assistants (FSA). The menu is planned out 14 days in advance so the galley crew is always prepared. The cargo division works all day to ensure the galley is always stocked. The galley, a well-oiled machine, never stops churning.

3:30 A.M. While most of the crew is still asleep and darkness still surrounds the ship, the overnight galley crew is hard at work preparing for breakfast. A stainless steel maze complete with ovens, counters, fryers, and kettles are clean and ready for use. The main goal for the overnight crew is to cook breakfast and begin the prep work for the day crew. One Sailor scrambles the eggs while another cuts the ribs that will be cooked for dinner.

“We use the skittle grills to cook the eggs because it’s the fastest way,” said Culinary Specialist Seaman (SW) Aaron L. Hammond. “The kettles are used to cook oatmeal, grits – you name it.”

After a couple of hours of cooking and cleaning, the over-

the cooler on the 4th deck. They spread out to have one person on each ladderwell and each landing. The Sailors pull out boxes upon boxes of onions, lettuce, potatoes, and an assortment of fruits and vegetables. These are always pulled out of the cooler at the last possible second due to the high level of heat and humidity they’re exposed to once they’re out. The crew has to make sure the fruits and vegetables don’t spoil between the time they’re removed from the cooler and the time lunch rolls around.

“Normally the cargo crew will handle moving the food from storage to the kitchen,” said Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Timothy Whitman. “However, when we need it in a hurry, the kitchen crew has to do it.”



night crew is ready for the breakfast rush.

Hammond grabs a hard-boiled egg and spins it on the counter top.

“That’s how you know they’re done,” said Hammond. “That’s how we know we’re ready.”

5:00 A.M. Two FSAs man the lines on either side of the galley with a “line backer” in case the lines need more food or need a relief. The crew’s other positions and cleaning assignments are laid out for everyone to see on a huge diagram that sits on a countertop in the middle of the galley.

“The board is there to keep everybody in line throughout the night,” said Culinary Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Martin C. Parker. “If you miss a cleaning assignment or you’re not where you’re supposed to be when you’re supposed to be there – we’ll know.”

The line outside the window tells the crew it’s time to start serving breakfast.

“Let’s get them through. Let’s get them out!” said Culinary Specialist 3rd Class (AW/SW) Michael T. Griffin.

8:00 A.M. The day crew took over at 7:30 a.m. and got straight to work. After a brief quarters, the crew realizes they need to bring up a few things from the coolers downstairs. One-by-one the crew moves down the stairs until they reach

Once the day’s produce has been pulled, the crew has to give the kitchen a good cleaning.

9:30 A.M. The crew spent an hour wiping down the counters and swabbing the deck. On the outside, the galley looks calm and peaceful. With a freshly-mopped deck, clean trays, and no line of Sailors clogging the passageway, a passerby might think the galley crew has a moment to breathe. Behind the steel curtain that covers the window, however, the crew is

Shrimp Linguini By The Ton
(1 of 2)
Makes 100 servings
Water _____ 8 Gallons
Pasta _____ 12 Pounds
Shrimp _____ 20 Pounds
Peppers and Onions _____ 6 lbs each
Cheese _____ 2 Pounds
How: Cook shrimp, drain, add peppers, onions as necessary



Left: Aircraft Support Equipment Technician Airman Ford Murphy prepares to serve food in the galley.

Below: Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Blake Rhodes cooks rice in the galley.



Rice By The Ton
Makes 100 servings
Water _____ 12 Gallons
Rice _____ 20 Pounds
Seasoning _____ 3 Pounds
How: Simmer rice,
add seasoning, stir, and serve

“Once that window opens... It’s non-stop for the rest of the day.”

— Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Timothy Whitman,
leading petty officer of day crew



Above: Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Handling) Airman Andres Sosa swabs the deck in the galley.

Left: Culinary Specialist Seaman James McCoy cooks fries in the galley.



busy and anticipation looms as they realize there is only one hour left. The cooks quickly but steadily stir the rice, steam the vegetables, and slice the meat before hungry Sailors line up for their midday meal.

The day crew’s first meal is ready and on the line at 10 a.m. and ready for hungry Sailors. The galley crew has a few moments to relax and eat an early chow. After 20 minutes, Whitman tells his cooks to finish their meals and get to their positions.

The 10:30 a.m. bells mark the lunch hour.

“This is what we do,” yelled Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Carrol Williams. “Bring it on!”

1:30 P.M. With the midday meal done, the galley crew focuses on cleaning the kitchen. Food that can’t be saved is thrown away and all the wells are cleaned out. Sanitation is crucial as they cook the food. There is always someone cleaning the dishes and the crew always tries to keep their assigned area clean.

“A clean galley is a happy galley,” said Williams. “That’s what I always tell them.”

The FSAs who work in the mess hall turn it upside down. A broom and a swab are pulled out and the crew gets to work. After the swabbing is done, the tables are lowered to the deck, wiped down, and reconfigured with the works – ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, and napkins, everything a person could need to eat his or her meal.

Seven bells ring over the 1MC, announcing the start of dinner.

“Once that window opens,” said Whitman, “It’s non-stop for the rest of the day.”

4:30 P.M. Evening chow is the most hectic part of the day. The galley crew is tired, the Sailors are tired, and tensions tend to mount. The crew is quiet as they serve the food and start the evening cleanup process in hopes of leaving a little earlier than usual. The only sound heard is the sizzle of meat on the grill and the fryers popping as the fries cook underneath the surface of the oil.

“At least it’s not surf-and-turf night,” said Whitman. “That’s the hardest night for the crew. The cleanup is much more thorough and the cooking is more intense.”

Four bells ring over the 1MC, letting the whole crew breathe a sigh of relief – dinner is over.

For the galley crew, evening chow is just the start of their night. After dinner is done, the night crew comes back on and the day crew gives the kitchen and mess hall a thorough cleaning.

“Most of the galley crew won’t be done for the day until at least 9:30 p.m.,” said Whitman. “They can’t leave until everything is scrubbed clean.”

Scrambled Eggs In A Hurry
Makes at least 100 servings

Eggs (Pre-Made) _____

How: Pour onto giant grill
and cook for 10-15 minutes

8:30 P.M. Darkness has yet again fallen upon the ship. The night crew has assumed command of the galley and they have about an hour to get ready for the midnight meal. They will have to handle the nightly meals with as much grace and determination as the night before.

“Feeding this ship cannot be accomplished with one crew,” said Whitman. “We need the night crew to operate the way we do.”

The day crew takes a break from cleaning to conduct their nightly meeting. The cooks and the FSAs gather in the mess hall to discuss lessons learned for the day and the routine for tomorrow. The crew looks tired but relieved – the day is almost over.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the day crew finishes their nightly cleanup as quickly as possible. They’ll need their rest because tomorrow is another full day of cooking and cleaning for 4,400 hungry Sailors. †



Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Johan V. Betulano prepares dessert in the galley.

More than 3,000 lives lost. Pentagon. Flight 93. The World Trade Center.

Story by MCSN(SW) Greg Wilhelmi Layout by MCSN(SW) Greg Wilhelmi and MC2(SW) Timothy Walter



Cmdr. Cameron H. Fish, the ship's command chaplain, recites a prayer during a Sept. 11 remembrance ceremony in the foc'sle. Photo by MC3(SW) Joshua D. Sheppard.

*we remember
the
fallen*

Sailors aboard USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) participated in a prayer and remembrance service in the ship's foc'sle Sept. 9, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

Approximately 100 Sailors attended the service to show their support for America, honor lost heroes, and to give thanks for the lives that were spared that day.

"My uncle worked about two blocks away from the World Trade Center," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuel) 3rd Class Robert Villafane. "He was late for work on the day of the attacks. I think that might have saved his life."

Cmdr. Cameron H. Fish, the ship's command chaplain, and Lt. Joel DeGraeve, command chaplain for Carrier Air Wing (CVW) Eight, hosted the non-denominational prayer service so that Sailors could come together to remember the events of 9/11.

"We felt it was important to try

to get the crew together to pray and remember as a unit, especially since it's the 10th anniversary," said Fish.

Sailors united to sing "God Bless America" and reflect on the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

"I came to show my respect and honor those who have lost family and loved ones," said Aviation Ordnanceman Airman (AW) Maurice D. Rogers Ashe.

Participants watched a video displaying photos of service members, firefighters, and civilians who were lost that day as excerpts from former president George W. Bush's speech played in the background.

"I think it helps Sailors understand why they're here," said DeGraeve. "It helps them understand why we serve in the military."+

Story and photos by MCSA Heather Paape
Layout by MC2(SW) Timothy Walter



GHWB baby shower

"It's nice to be here and have somebody do this for us."



Expectant mother Allison Mazanka opens her "shower in a box."



LeAnn Morrissey, co-founder of Operation Shower, speaks to new mothers married to Sailors deployed aboard USS George H.W. Bush.

Operation Shower hosted a baby shower for expectant mothers whose husbands are deployed aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) at Tabernacle Church of Norfolk, Va., Sept. 17.

Operation Shower is a nonprofit organization that hosts unit-wide baby showers across the country for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and National Guard. The event provided approximately 40 mothers with gifts and essentials.

After watching a videotaped welcome from President George H.W. Bush, each mother received a stroller, baby tub, and gender appropriate outfit, plus other essential baby items that were raffled off. To add a unique touch to the event, a "shower in a box" was given to each mother.

"It literally is a full baby shower in one box," said LeAnn Morrissey, co-founder of Operation Shower and chief shower officer.

This special gift consisted of bath items, books, toys, blankets, diaper bags and other items that a mother would need for a new addition to the family. The items were provided by various companies and individual donors across the country.

"It looks like I'm pretty set for a while," said Allison Mazanka, a soon-to-be mother. "It's nice to be here and have somebody do this for us."

Since 2007, Operation Shower has hosted these events to ease the burden mothers face while their husbands are deployed. So far they have helped over 400 women at 16 showers. This shower for new mothers married to George H.W. Bush Sailors is just one of the seven planned for this year.

For more information about Operation Shower, visit <http://www.operation-shower.org> +

October 2011 Fleet and Family Support Center Calendar

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

3 Resume Writing Yorktown 1-4p.m.	4 Couples Workshop Northwest 1-3:30p.m. Career Planning Northwest 9a.m.-noon Federal Employment System Yorktown 1-4p.m. Job Search Strategies Norfolk 8:30-11:30a.m.	5 Identity Theft Protection Northwest 8:30-10a.m. Resume Writing Little Creek 9a.m.-noon Interview Techniques Yorktown 1-4p.m. Norfolk 1-4p.m.	6 Changes Norfolk 1:30-3:30p.m. Couples Workshop Northwest 1-3:30p.m. Resume Writing Oceana 9a.m.-noon	7
10	11 Resume Writing Northwest 9a.m.-noon	12 Retirement Planning Norfolk 1-2:30p.m. Savings and Investments Norfolk 8:30-10a.m. TSP Norfolk 10-11:30a.m.	13 Money Management Yorktown 8a.m.-4p.m. Changes Norfolk 1:30-3:30p.m. Couples Workshop Norfolk 4-6:30p.m. Resume Writing Oceana 9a.m.-noon	14
17 Money Management Oceana 8a.m.-4p.m.	18 Home Ownership Norfolk 8:30a.m.-2:30p.m. Survive the Holidays Yorktown 9-10:30a.m. Retirement Planning Oceana 8:30-10a.m. TSP Oceana 10-11:30a.m.	19 Money Management Norfolk 8a.m.-4p.m. Spending Plan Norfolk 8:30-10a.m.	20 Changes Norfolk 1:30-3:30p.m. Couples Workshop Norfolk 4-6:30p.m. Federal Employment System Norfolk 8:30-11:30a.m.	21
24 Finances for Newlyweds Norfolk 1-2:30p.m. Federal Employment System Oceana 1-4p.m.	25 Federal Employment System Northwest 9a.m.-noon	26 Car Buying Strategies Norfolk 10-11:30 a.m. Credit Management Norfolk 8:30-10a.m.	27 Changes Norfolk 1:30-3:30p.m. Resume Writing Oceana 9a.m.-noon Job Network Oceana noon-1p.m.	28
31 Money Management Little Creek 8a.m.-4p.m. Couples Workshop Little Creek 4:30-7p.m.				

To Register, contact: FFSC Oceana: 443-2923, FFSC Norfolk: 444-2102,
FFSC Yorktown: 887-4606, FFSC Northwest: 421-8770, FFSC Little Creek: 462-7563